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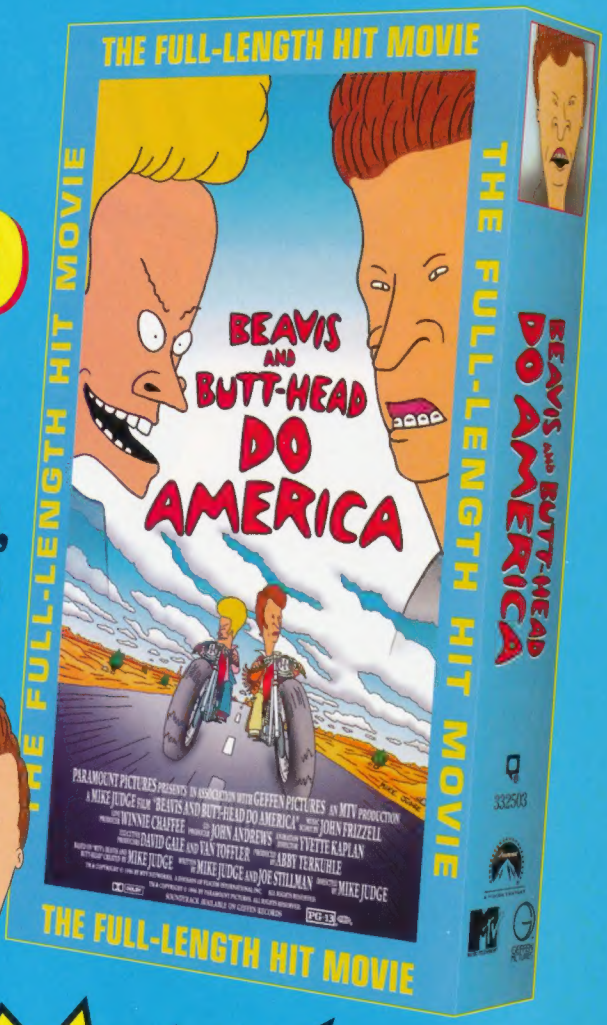
#1 VIDEO PICK!

YOU SAID "PICK"!

HUH, HUH, HUH!


THE FULL-LENGTH HIT MOVIE
BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD DO AMERICA
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– Siskel & Ebert

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WITHOUT AND WITHIN

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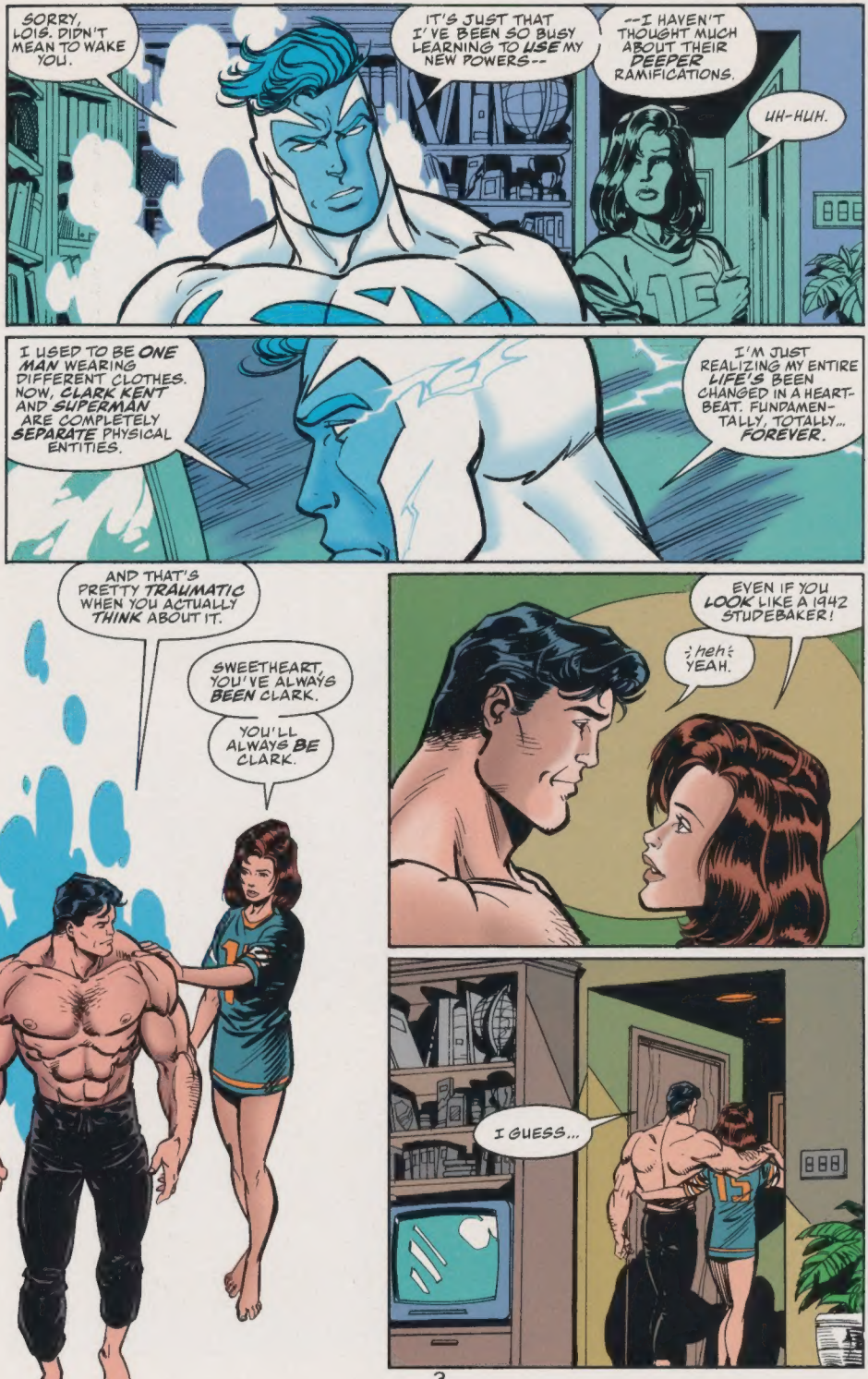
SORRY, LOIS. DIDN'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU.
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LEARNING TO USE MY NEW POWERS--
--I HAVEN'T THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT THEIR DEEPER RAMIFICATIONS.
UH-HUH.
I USED TO BE ONE MAN WEARING DIFFERENT CLOTHES. NOW, CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN ARE COMPLETELY SEPARATE PHYSICAL ENTITIES.
I'M JUST REALIZING MY ENTIRE LIFE'S BEEN CHANGED IN A HEARTBEAT. FUNDAMENTALLY, TOTALLY... FOREVER.
AND THAT'S PRETTY TRAUMATIC WHEN YOU ACTUALLY THINK ABOUT IT.
SWEETHEART, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLARK.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE CLARK.
EVEN IF YOU LOOK LIKE A 1942 STUDEBAKER!
:heh: YEAH.
I GUESS...

DOCKSIDE, ALONG THE WEST RIVER.
HIDING LIKE A CRIMINAL, EATING STOLEN FOOD...!
NOT EXACTLY WHAT I PLANNED!
BUT THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY. SOON, THINGS ARE BOUND TO--
--CHANGE?
MR. FLINT?
WHAT THE--?
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU... "ROCK"?
STAY BACK, OR--!
PLEASE, LET'S BE CIVILIZED ABOUT THIS, SHALL WE?
KRANG!

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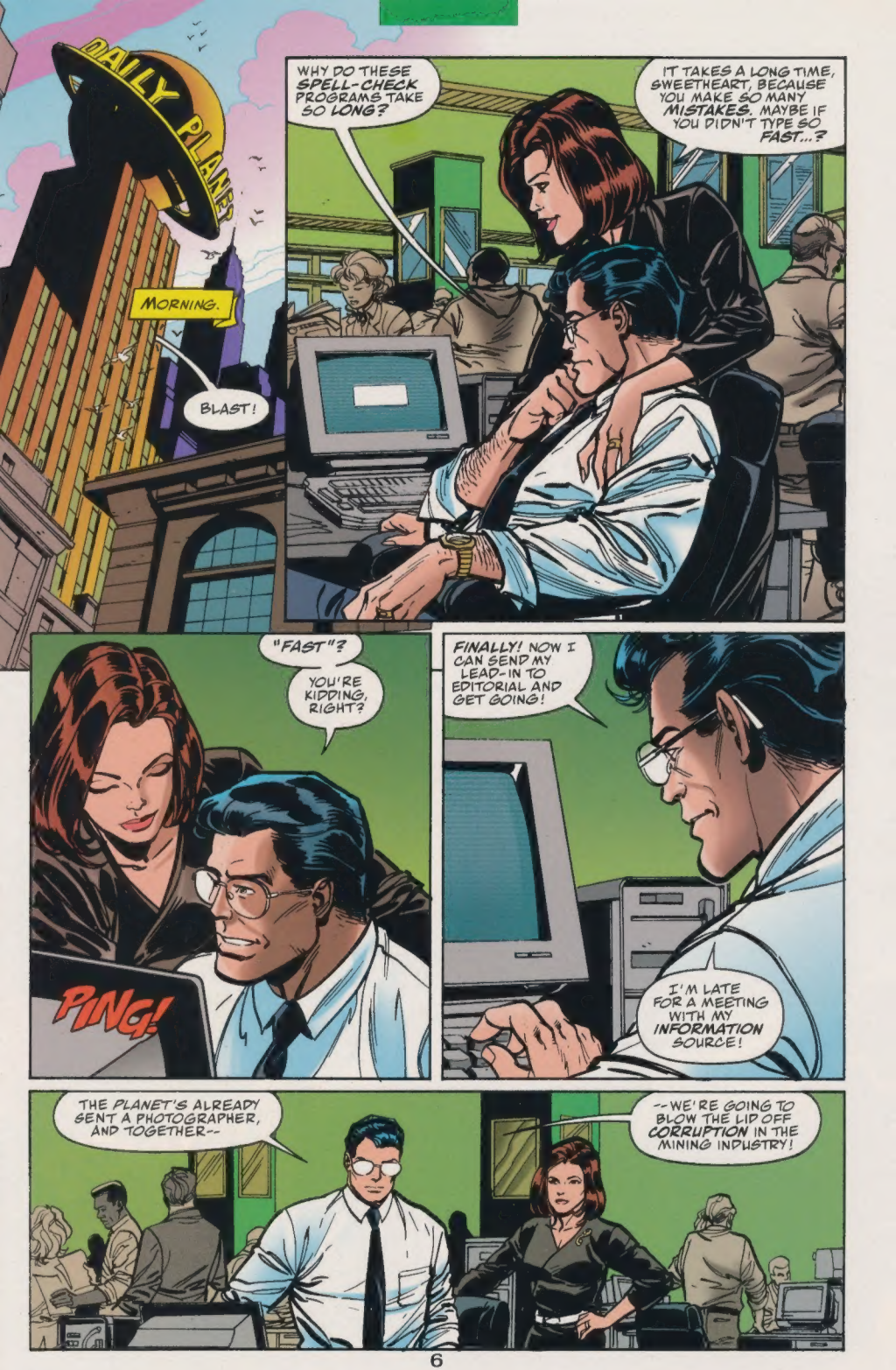
VIOLENCE ISN'T NECESSARY--AND COOPERATION COULD PROVE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.
YOU SEEM TO KNOW ME--BUT HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
MY RESOURCES ARE RATHER... IMPRESSIVE.
JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT:
LEX LUTHOR.
AND WHILE THAT INDIVIDUAL ISN'T MY PRIMARY TARGET, HE IS A POTENTIAL RIVAL TO MY POWER BASE. SO, IF YOU HELP ME ATTAIN MY GOAL--
--I'LL HELP YOU GET YOURS.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
TALK TO ME...!


DAILY PLANET
MORNING.
BLAST!
WHY DO THESE SPELL-CHECK PROGRAMS TAKE SO LONG?
IT TAKES A LONG TIME, SWEETHEART, BECAUSE YOU MAKE SO MANY MISTAKES. MAYBE IF YOU DIDN'T TYPE SO FAST...?
"FAST"?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
PING!
FINALLY! NOW I CAN SEND MY LEAD-IN TO EDITORIAL AND GET GOING!
I'M LATE FOR A MEETING WITH MY INFORMATION SOURCE!
THE PLANET'S ALREADY SENT A PHOTOGRAPHER, AND TOGETHER--
--WE'RE GOING TO BLOW THE LID OFF CORRUPTION IN THE MINING INDUSTRY!

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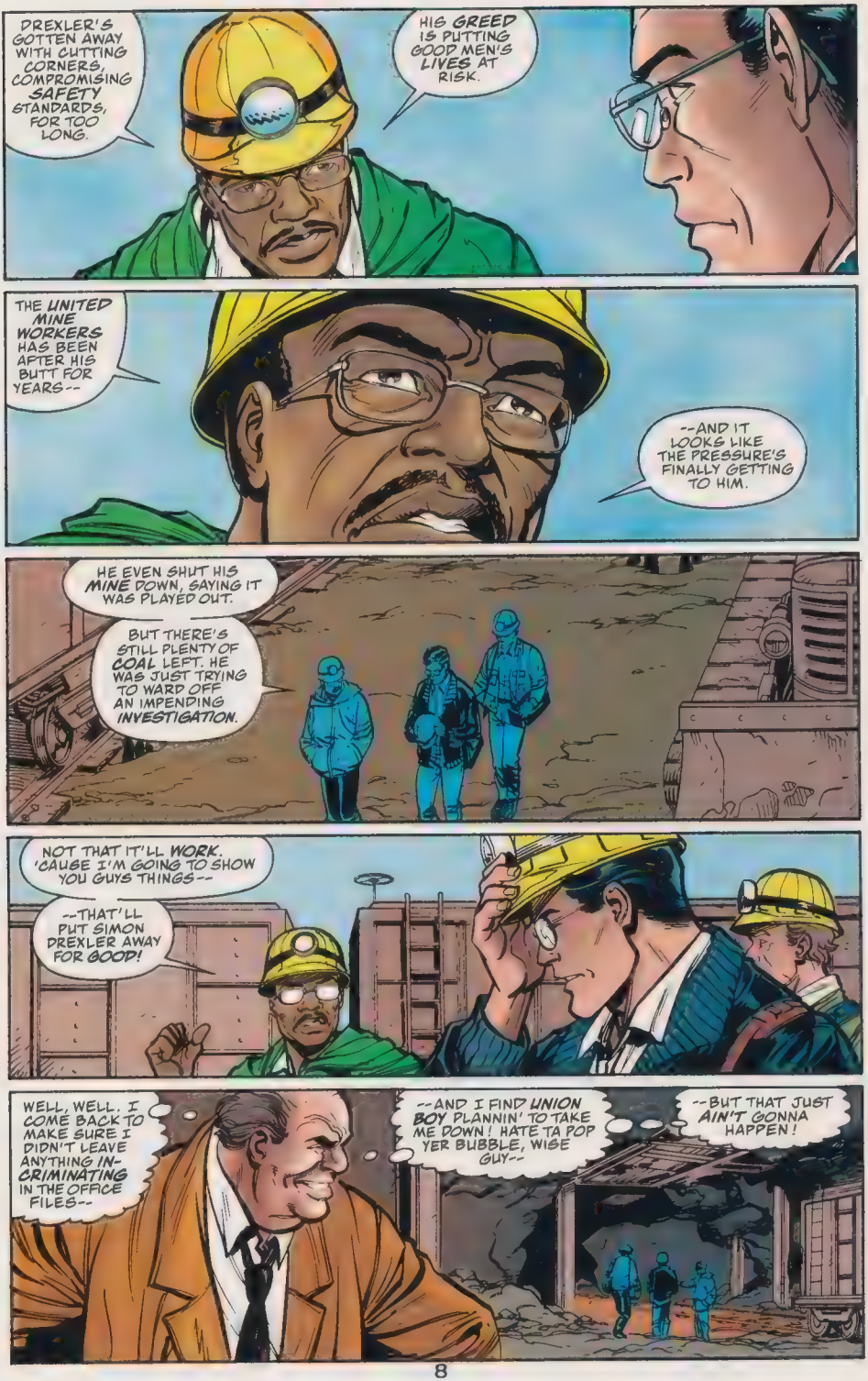
BE CAREFUL.
I LOVE YOU.
HURRY HOME.
DON'T WORRY, HON. I'LL BE BACK IN A--
"--FLASH!"
KRA-KOOM!
DAILY PLANET
A CURRENTLY INACTIVE SLOPE MINE IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, SEVERAL SECONDS LATER...
HI, VINCE!
MORNIN', C.K.
THANK YOU FOR COMING, MR. KENT.
LET'S MAKE IT "CLARK" AND "STEPHEN," OKAY? AND I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
YOU'RE TAKING QUITE A RISK.
IT'LL BE WORTH IT, IF WE STOP SIMON DREXLER.


DREXLER'S GOTTEN AWAY WITH CUTTING CORNERS, COMPROMISING SAFETY STANDARDS, FOR TOO LONG.
HIS GREED IS PUTTING GOOD MEN'S LIVES AT RISK.
THE UNITED MINE WORKERS HAS BEEN AFTER HIS BUTT FOR YEARS--
--AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE PRESSURE'S FINALLY GETTING TO HIM.
HE EVEN SHUT HIS MINE DOWN, SAYING IT WAS PLAYED OUT.
BUT THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF COAL LEFT. HE WAS JUST TRYING TO WARD OFF AN IMPENDING INVESTIGATION.
NOT THAT IT'LL WORK. 'CAUSE I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU GUYS THINGS--
--THAT'LL PUT SIMON DREXLER AWAY FOR GOOD!
WELL, WELL. I COME BACK TO MAKE SURE I DIDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING IN-CRIMINATING IN THE OFFICE FILES--
--AND I FIND UNION BOY PLANNIN' TO TAKE ME DOWN! HATE TA POP YER BUBBLE, WISE GUY--
--BUT THAT JUST AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!

STRYKER'S ISLAND, HOME OF METROPOLIS MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.
LAST ONE, PAULY!
YEAH, YEAH. JUST PUT IT DOWN, I'LL LOG IT IN.
COUPLA WEEKS AGO, AS BARRAGE, I HAD METROPOLIS QUAKIN' IN ITS BOOTS!
NOW, I'M NOTHIN' BUT A GLORIFIED STOCK BOY!
HUH? MY NAME? HANDWRITTEN ON THIS CRATE?
PAUL ROONEY STRYKERS ISLAND
I DON'T GET IT. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR THE MACHINE SHOP.
WHAT COULD--?
KRUK
SWEEEET...!

MOMENTS LATER, AS AN UNAUTHORIZED CRAFT RIDES THE TREACHEROUS CURRENTS OUTSIDE...
SHAKASH!!
AN' HERE'S ONE TA GROW ON, YA LOUSY SCREWS!
KZAMP!
BRAKKABRAK!
GO!
GLAD YA MADE IT, PAL!
THE BOSS'LL BE GLAD TA HAVE YA BACK!
THAT NOTE JUST DESCRIBED THIS ESCAPE PLAN!
WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOIN' ON?
YOU'LL FIND OUT... SOON ENOUGH!

BATMAN & ROBIN

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TWO HUNDRED FEET BELOW PENNSYLVANIA.
YOU'LL WANT CLOSE-UPS OF THOSE SEAMS, VINCE.
REGULATIONS REQUIRE ROOF BOLTS TO BE INSERTED EVERY TEN FEET FOR CEILING SUPPORT.
BUT DREXLER HAD THEM PUT IN EVERY FIFTY FEET, TO SAVE MONEY.
THAT MAKES THIS WHOLE PLACE UNSTABLE--
--AN ACCIDENT JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN!

INSURANCE WILL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE I'M DOIN'! AN' AS A BONUS--
--I CAN BLAME IT ALL ON UNION SABOTAGE!
VVRRRMMMM
TALK ABOUT YER WIN-WIN SITUATIONS!
KA-BOOM!!
BRRMMBL
AGAINST THE WALL!
NEXT TO THE SUPPORT BRACES!
COVER YOUR HEADS!
CAVE-IN!

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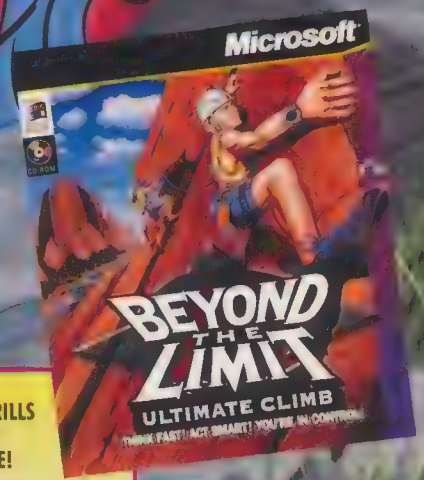

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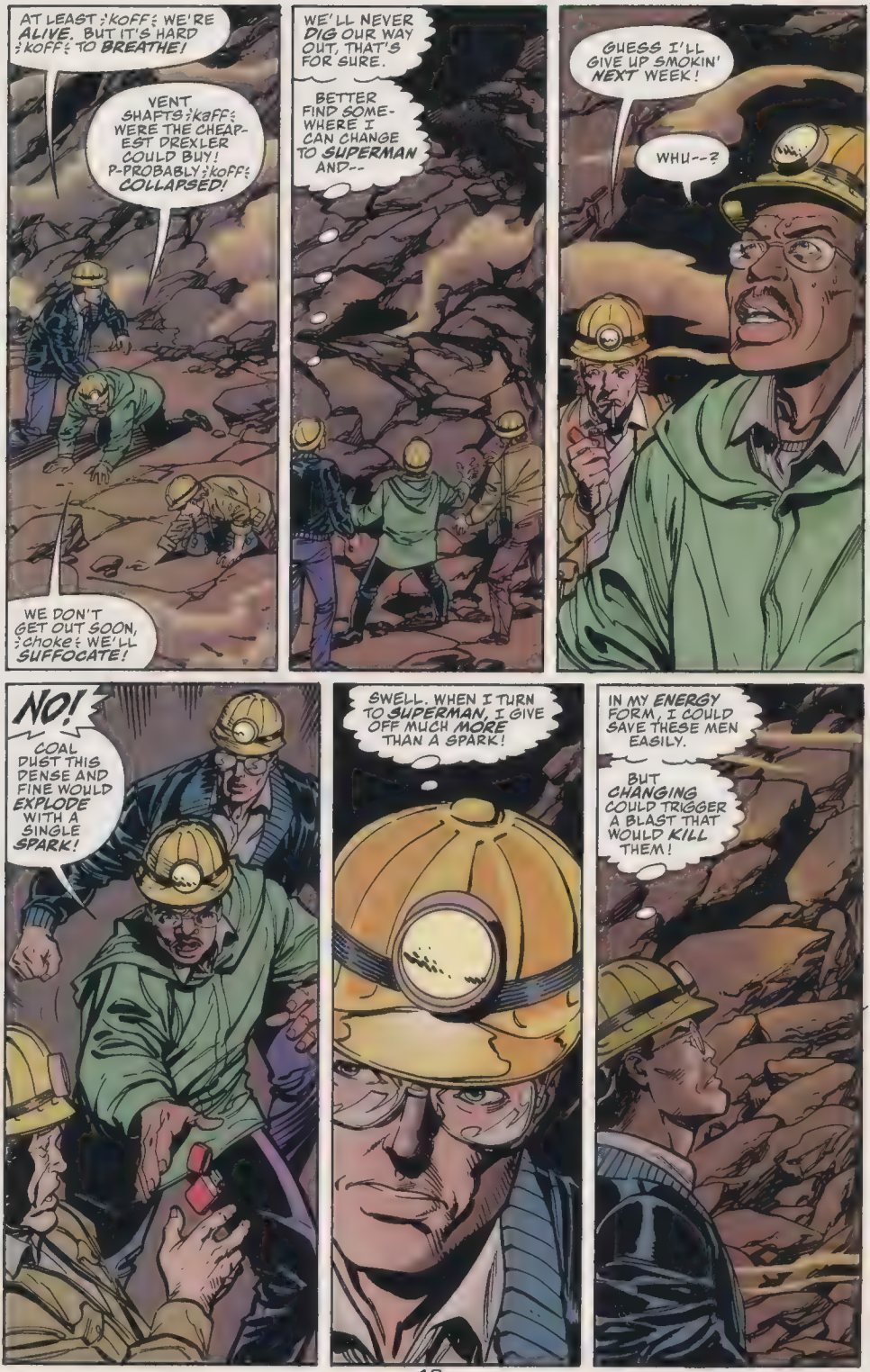
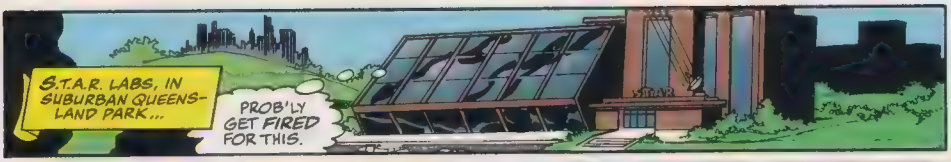
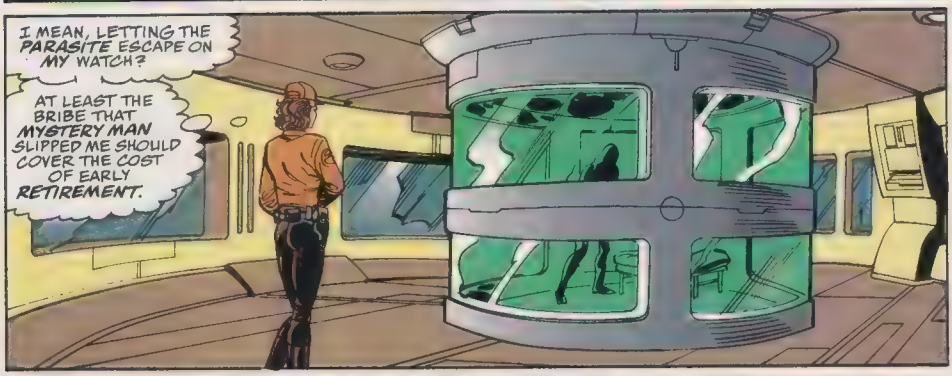
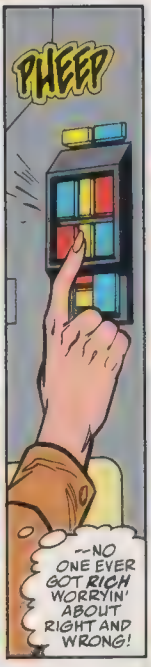

AT LEAST ;KOFF; WE'RE ALIVE. BUT IT'S HARD ;KOFF; TO BREATHE!
VENT SHAFTS ;KOFF; WERE THE CHEAPEST DREXLER COULD BUY! P-PROBABLY ;KOFF; COLLAPSED!
WE DON'T GET OUT SOON, ;CHOKE; WE'LL SUFFOCATE!
WE'LL NEVER DIG OUR WAY OUT, THAT'S FOR SURE.
BETTER FIND SOMEWHERE I CAN CHANGE TO SUPERMAN AND--
GUESS I'LL GIVE UP SMOKIN' NEXT WEEK!
WHU--?
NO!
COAL DUST THIS DENSE AND FINE WOULD EXPLODE WITH A SINGLE SPARK!
SWELL. WHEN I TURN TO SUPERMAN, I GIVE OFF MUCH MORE THAN A SPARK!
IN MY ENERGY FORM, I COULD SAVE THESE MEN EASILY.
BUT CHANGING COULD TRIGGER A BLAST THAT WOULD KILL THEM!


S.T.A.R. LABS, IN SUBURBAN QUEENS-LAND PARK...
PROB'LY GET FIRED FOR THIS.


I MEAN, LETTING THE PARASITE ESCAPE ON MY WATCH?
AT LEAST THE BRIBE THAT MYSTERY MAN SLIPPED ME SHOULD COVER THE COST OF EARLY RETIREMENT.

JUST HOPE IT'S ENOUGH TO HELP ME FORGET WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SET LOOSE.
OH, WELL--


PHEEP
--NO ONE EVER GOT RICH WORRYIN' ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG!

GOOD. POWER VACUUM LEFT HIM ENOUGH JUICE TO STAY MOBILE.
THIS WAY, DOC.

GUY WHO PAID ME SAID YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO--
STAR

Don't ask why.

We eat what we like.™

APPLE JACKS

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S.T.A.R.
:GHGK:
CHANGE O' PLANS, DARLIN'!
THAT POWER-SUCKIN' MACHINE LEFT ME KINDA DRAINED!
I COULD USE A REFILL!
RUDY, RUDY, RUDY!
IS THIS THE THANKS I GET FOR ALLOWING YOU CONTROL OF OUR BODY?
BACK OFF, FREEMAN! I'M HUNGRY!
AS AM I. BUT LET'S LISTEN FOR A MOMENT, SHALL WE? IT COULD PROVE ENLIGHT-ENING. BESIDES--
--THERE'LL BE TIME FOR SNACKS LATER...!

NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD THIS PROBLEM WITH MY OLD POWERS.
WHAT DO I DO?
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT, ULTIMATELY, I CAN SAVE MYSELF.
AND I STILL DON'T KNOW THE LIMITS OF MY HUMAN FORM. WHAT IF I PASS OUT BEFORE THEY DO?
I'VE NEVER CAUSED OR ALLOWED THE DEATH OF AN INNOCENT BEING--
--AND I WON'T START NOW! I'LL SPEND EVERY BREATH I HAVE LEFT FINDING A WAY TO SAVE US ALL!
ONCE THE OTHERS ... PASS OUT ... I CAN CHANGE TO SUPERMAN ... BUT THERE STILL COULD BE AN EXPLOSION.
WHO WOULD BE LEFT TO RESCUE THEM?
HEY, STEVE! ARE THOSE TANKS FILLED WITH OXYGEN?
CAN'T WE JUST OPEN 'EM UP AN' GET SOME TO BREATHE?

'FRAID NOT, VINCE. THESE ARE CARBON DIOXIDE CYLINDERS.
THEY'RE USED TO PRESSURE-SPLIT SEAMS WITHOUT USING BLASTING CAPS.
THEN THAT COULD BE OUR ANSWER! COULD THEY CREATE ENOUGH PRESSURE TO BREAK UP THE DEBRIS BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE?
WELL, THE COAL SHOULD BE SOFT ENOUGH.
BUT IT'D TAKE MULTIPLE CYLINDERS, AND WE CAN ONLY TRIGGER ONE AT A TIME.
BY THE TIME THE LAST GAS WAS RELEASED, THE REACTION WOULD HAVE STARTED--
--AND WHOEVER'S ACTIVATING THEM COULD GET CRUSHED BY THE VERY ROCK FALL THAT MIGHT SAVE US!
THEN LET'S GET STARTED!
BECAUSE THAT'S A RISK I WILL TAKE!

MOMENTS LATER...
OKAY, THEY SHOULD BE ANCHORED SOLIDLY ENOUGH, BUT...
...THERE'S NO GUARANTEE.
I'M NOT ASKING FOR A GUARANTEE -- JUST A CHANCE!
GOOD LUCK!
I'D RATHER HAVE SUPER-SPEED, BUT HERE GOES!
THAT'S ONE!
AND PRESSURE'S ALREADY SHATTERING THE COAL!
FFSSSSS
OW! C-COAL SHARDS FLYING BACK ...L-LIKE BULLETS!
BARRIER CRUMBLING! STARTING TO COLLAPSE!
JUST ONE ...CYLINDER... TO GO!
BRABA
BAM!
DID IT!

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HURRY! WE'VE GOT A GAP BIG ENOUGH TO CRAWL THROUGH--
--BUT THE CEILING'S STILL UNSTABLE! COULD GIVE WAY ANY--
KRUBULLUMM
W-WE MADE IT! BUT... MR. KENT?
A BRAVE MAN. BUT I'M AFRAID THE ONLY THING THAT COULD SAVE HIM NOW WOULD BE--
"--A MIRACLE!"

SHRAKAKOWM!
WHOA! DIDN'T EXPECT THAT!
BUT I'D SAY THIS MEANS MY PROBLEMS ARE--
--OVER?
KE-RAKK!
MR. KENT--
--IS SAFE. I LEFT HIM IN THE WOODS IN CASE THERE WAS MORE ...TROUBLE.
"TROUBLE"?
O-OH, NO!
NO TROUBLE!
DON'T HIT ME?

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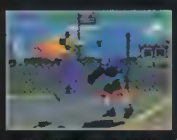
T TEEN Ages 13+ | 1 or 2 PLAYERS



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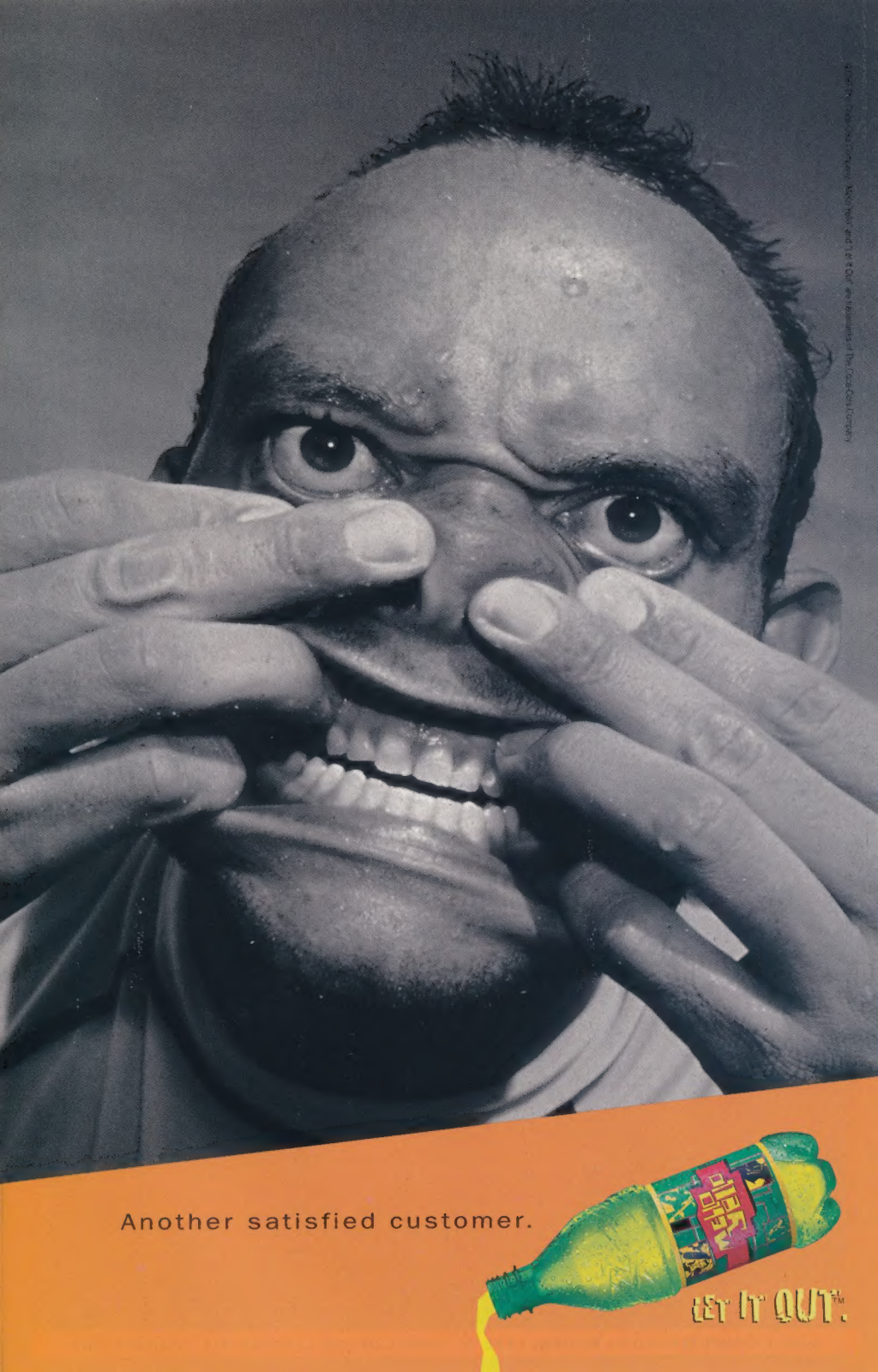
EVENING.
I CAN SEE IT, NOW.
THAT MINE INCIDENT HELPED ME ACCEPT THE NEW REALITY.
WHAT YOU SAID IS FUNDAMENTALLY TRUE: I WAS, AM, AND ALWAYS WILL BE... CLARK KENT.
THE DECISION I MADE TO SACRIFICE MYSELF IF NECESSARY CAME FROM WHO I AM--
--NOT WHAT.
IT WAS MADE BY THE MAN MA AND PA KENT RAISED AND TAUGHT.
BY THE ESSENCE OF WHAT I AM AT MY CORE.
THAT'S THE GLUE THAT HOLDS ME TOGETHER, NO MATTER WHAT PHYSICAL FORM I TAKE.
AND THAT'S THE MAN I LOVE.
WHICH, I HASTEN TO ADD, IS SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE!

WHILE, SOME BLOCKS TO THE SOUTH...
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS THE BEGINNING.
SOON, THE OTHERS WILL JOIN US.
AND, ONCE WE'RE AT FULL STRENGTH, THE ONLY FORM THIS "NEW" SUPERMAN WILL BE IN, WILL BE--
--PIECES!
SUPERMAN REVENGE SQUAD


Another satisfied customer.
MTN DEW
LET IT OUT.

RE: ACTION

We're playing a little catch-up this month, since we devoted last month's lettercols to you readers' opinions regarding Superman's new look. Therefore, on to issue #730, then #731...

Dear Re:Action:

ACTION COMICS #730 ruled! I really love Superman, and these villains are awesome! David Michelinie, Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier and the crew are doing a great job on ACTION, and I hope they never leave.

I like the character Riot. He's really cool, and I'd like to see much more of him and the rest of the Revenge Squad in the future. I can't wait for the conclusion of this story in MAN OF STEEL #65!

ROB HANEY
MACHESNEY PARK, IL

P.S. How about a crossover with the Flash or the Teen Titans sometime in the future?

Superman crosses over with the Flash every month in JLA, Rob, and he met a very small portion of the new Teen Titans recently when the Atom guest-starred in these pages. We'll try to fit the rest of the group in next time.

By the way, we agree wholeheartedly with your comments regarding our creative team. Unfortunately, this is David Michelinie's last issue, as he moves on to the alumni class of Superman writers. We wish him the very best and would like to say thanks for a job well done here. Take a bow, Dave; and good luck!

*So who's gonna write ACTION, you ask? Well, next issue we get a li'l help from FLASH/KINGDOM COME writer extraordinaire Mark Waid, and then Stuart Immonen becmes the new regular scribe **and** penciller on ACTION, with Jose Marzan Jr. by his side, as always! Meanwhile, Messieurs Grummett and Rodier hop on board with Karl Kesel on ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, starting with issue #550!*

It's gonna be a great new era on the Superman books, so stick around!

Whew, I'm beat. Back to your letters...

Dear Re:Action:

The little things were what made ACTION #731 great. Things like Lois and Clark interacting on pages 4 and 5, Superman's cape getting burned off, and the routine dialogue between all the characters.

I'm new to the Superverse, but if all of the issues are this good, then I'll be around for the long haul.

AARON PETERSEN
BOONE, IA

Little things mean a lot to us, too, Aaron, such as your letter. We're glad to have you aboard for the ride and present you with this month's Baldy to officially welcome you to the Superverse. Enjoy!

Uh-oh...trouble ahead...

Dear Patsies:

Every week I read the mailbag, full of the same, pathetic, self-serving praise from your readers, trying oh-so-hard to get a Baldy. "The artwork was great," "The characters touched me"... You know what I mean. Well, *duh*. Any regular reader knows to expect that every week. Or once in a while (see ACTION #731), some wise guy will throw in, "By the way, what does a Baldy look like?" And you, not seeing through his paper-thin ruse, actually *give him one!* Geez!

It ends here. Each night, as I walk to the subway from my office in midtown Manhattan, I notice the "S" of Superman glowing from a third-floor office, larger than life. Is someone summoning Big Blue? No, that only works for a fellow in Gotham City. So I finally investigated (by simply walking into the lobby of the building and reading the directory) and discovered the offices of DC Comics.

I give you fair warning. The days of such lenient and irresponsible Baldy-giving are over. For now that I know where to find them, don't be surprised when your stockpile of precious "awards" suddenly and mysteriously disappears. Afraid? I thought so. A dastardly scheme? Well, you brought this upon yourselves.

MARK A. ALLEN
BROOKLYN, NY

Thanks for the warning, champ. We've moved the Baldys, and don't worry—the days of irresponsible Baldy-giving stop right here with this letter. Feel better?

—Mike McAvennie
Knows where the Baldys are buried.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

IN ONE WEEK: A whole lotta fightin' in MAN OF STEEL #71—Bibbo defends his championship belt, while the Mainframe Gang attempts to put Superman down for the count! And Supes's next contender is Doc Parasite! Get absorbed in seven days with Louise Simonson, Scot Eaton and Dennis Janke!

IN TWO WEEKS: Big Blue and Doc Parasite duke it out in SUPERMAN #127, Bibbo and Yango go toe-to-toe in the Ace of Clubs, and Lex Luthor readies himself for legal battle. All this, and Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein help Jimmy Olsen make a decision in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: It's the announcement of the century in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #550 (well, at least since the death of Superman, his return, and then his wedding), and Jimmy Olsen's got the scoop! The site of the announcement: Lois and Clark's apartment building! Plus, the Guardian's held hostage by Boss Moxie and his gang! It's a double-sized extravaganza in twenty-one days from Karl Kesel, Stuart Immonen, Tom Grummett, Jose Marzan, Jr. and Denis Rodier!

IN FOUR WEEKS: Lex Luthor's trial takes place in ACTION #737, and Superman would love to be there if it weren't for some volcano untimely about to burst! Meanwhile, Jimmy's getting some unwanted visitors who want more info regarding his big scoop. Get all the poop in twenty-eight days from guest writer Mark Waid, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier!

Your mission, Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier and Patrick Martin, should you decide to accept it, is to come up with another cool cover image that shows us a host of bad guys to be picked for the Superman Revenge Squad...Oh, you did it already? Never mind, then!

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